

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: December 7, 2017

Item Number: **062**

Item(s) to Set Public Hearing(s)

Set a public hearing to receive public comment and amend Austin Energy's rates and fees included in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget (Ordinance No. 20170913-002) to add a Customer Assistance Program customer community solar rate. (Suggested date and time: December 14, 2017 beginning at 4:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX.).

Lead Department	Austin Energy
Fiscal Note	Funding is available in the Customer Assistance Program portion of the Community Benefits Charge.
Prior Council Action	October 5, 2017 - Approved Resolution No. 20171005-033 regarding solar programming for underserved markets. September 13, 2017 - Approved Ordinance No. 20170913-002, adopting Austin Energy rates and fees in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget.
For More Information	Jeff Vice, Director, Local Government Relations (512) 322-6087; Debbie Kimberly, Vice President, Customer Energy Solutions (512) 322-6327.
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action	November 13, 2017 - Reviewed by the Electric Utility Commission. November 14, 2017 - Reviewed by the Resource Management Commission.

Additional Backup Information:

This action requests City Council to set a public hearing to amend Austin Energy's rates in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget, by adding a Customer Assistance Program customer community solar rate.

Austin Energy's community solar program enables renters, multifamily residents, and homeowners with shaded roofs or lacking access to capital, to access local solar without putting it on their own roof. The 2.5 megawatt (MW) La Loma Community Solar Project, located northeast of Airport and Springdale Boulevards in Council District 1, is expected to come online this winter.

Austin Energy proposes to reserve half of the La Loma Community Solar Project for income-verified Customer Assistance Program (CAP) customers. Subscriptions would be available on a first come, first served basis, and based on the production from the facility, would serve roughly 200 CAP participants.

Participants in CAP would receive a discounted rate of \$0.0277/kilowatt hour (kWh) which is 1.5 cents below the current Community Solar adjustment, and slightly less than the current Power System Adjustment (PSA), which it replaces on the participant's bill. Participants lock in the rate for 15 years, protecting them from fluctuations in the PSA. The CAP participants in this project may take the subscription with them if they move within Austin Energy territory, and cancel any time. Participants who cease to be CAP customers can elect the non-discounted community solar tariff or the PSA.

The low-income community solar discount program will be funded out of the Community Benefits Charge at a cost of roughly \$33,000 annually.

The low-income discount program will support Council Resolution No. 20171005-033 <<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=285993>>, which called for Austin Energy to target \$500,000 of its Fiscal Year 2018 budget for incentives and programs designed to expand access to solar energy to underserved markets, including low-income households and renters.

The Community Solar Program will also assist in meeting the local solar goals included in the Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan to 2027 <<https://austinenergy.com/wcm/connect/6dd1c1c7-77e4-43e4-8789-838eb9f0790d/2027+Austin+Energy+Resource+Plan+20171002.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=IXv4zHS>>.

City Code Section 2-5-45 requires a public hearing prior to the City Council approving changes in electric, water, wastewater, and solid waste collection rates.